

YOUNG WORLD

A day with the Grandmaster

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Thirty students played chess with Grandmaster Mahesh Chandran, an alumnus of their school, who drove home many points for them to remember.

It was more than a homecoming for Grandmaster P. Mahesh Chandran. On the premises of Dolphin Matriculation H.S. School that nurtured his talent and dreams, Mahesh was here again to act as a catalyst to shape budding chess talents and also gauge their status in the field.

Mahesh Chandran, an alumnus of the school, who attained the Grandmaster status in 2005, played chess simultaneously with 30 aspirants studying in Stds. II to XII of the school.

The Grandmaster, now pursuing his master's degree in the **University of Texas in Dallas**, was in the city recently to motivate young chess aspirants of Dolphin School. He spent about three and a half hours playing with his opponents, who waged a strenuous battle of wits against the Grandmaster.

Their turn now

"I grew up playing chess in the very same school and it is amazing to see many budding talent here," he said and added that the aspirants at Dolphin School gave a tough time for him as some of them were seasoned players.

Of the 30 games played at a time, Mahesh emerged victorious in 20, lost three and agreed for a draw in five.

"I must have played around 1,000 games so far in chess but my game with the Grandmaster gave me much more confidence than ever before," said Std. XII student, R. Preethi, a national champion in her age group.

Preethi, who was able to win the game in 49 moves, said that she had replenished her knowledge of chess by learning more nuances of the game in the three hours. Her sister, R. Karthikeyeni, said that she had gained confidence in spite of ending the game in a draw.

Dusthageerr Ibrahim, a student of Std. X, who won the game against Mahesh in 40 moves, also expressed similar feelings.

"No doubt, Mahesh inspired us by his presence and motivated us to face the challenges with confidence in every move that we make in the game," he said.

Earlier, Mahesh Chandran played against 35 children in various age groups in Ramana Vidyalaya in Rajapalayam and Vikaasa School, Madurai.

Mahesh said, "I want to improve my points by 50 with consistent practice which, at present, I am not able to do because of my studies and research. But I am sure I will go a long way in the field of chess."

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